

Friday Morning, May 5, 1865.

Delusion in Externals.

The exhibition of national splendor, or of private opulence, is seldom a sure proof of national prosperity. The bankrupt makes his most extraordinary displays of profligacy, just before his open failure; and there is no moral alth more shocking than that which imperial trappings are employed to conceal. Remark, ing to a pupil the various transactions which had taken place within a short period, in and about Athens, during the splendid career of Pericles, one of the Greek sages contrasted its condition unfavorably with that of the period when it was mostly wanting in its present magnificence. He deplored the luxuries which had sprung up around him, superseding the humble desires and the moderate ambitions of a virtuous simplicity among the people. More beauty of externals could not reconcile him to the rottenness which lay below; and he predicted those destinies which were inevitable from the indulgence which never suffered it means to regulate the extent of its desires. It is only the few, in any country, who can honestly make an exhibition of wealth, or can virtuously repose in that indolence which even wealth cannot justify. Any struggle, therefore, on the part of the great body of the community, after the shows and pomps which belong to riches, must be neither more nor less than a contest in fraud for the honors of bankruptcy. The philosopher would always prefer to see a country thickly scattered over with smiling and cultivated farms, even though, at the same time, the treasury of State or city remained empty—since a people, prosperous by means of labor, can always meet the emergency, whatever form it may take, by which State or city is endangered. It is not so certain that State or city can help a dissolute people, who have yet to learn the first rudiments of industry. The noblest edifices in every country, are true hearts and strong hands, souls not debased by indigence, nor enervated by luxury. Those with most certainly be found in every nation, where the Government neither subjects them for its creatures, nor affords them an unexampled example by its pomps—a people who will always have a filial love for the soil they cultivate, and for the Government, which, protecting them from others, does not itself seek to oppress them! "I would rather," said the sage, "see the national treasury for ever without a penny, than know that any worthy citizen stood hopelessly in need of one."

Our Situation.

Any thing said, by way of counsel or consolation, on the situation of our affairs, would be purely absurd, so long as the actual facts in that condition are withheld from our knowledge. When we shall arrive certainly at these facts, it will be time enough to meditate the policy which we need to pursue. We should not give such weight to mere rumor and guess work, gossip and street prattle, as to make it the subject of thoughtful commentary. It is probable that our Legislature will be summoned to meet, and we suppose that a Conven-

tion will be called also, properly to adjust our future relations with our conquerors and masters. We trust that they will bring to their work the adequate wisdom. Meanwhile, it is the duty of all thoughtful citizens to meet in their several precincts, and prepare their minds, as well as they can, for the bitter cup of humiliation, which the providence of God has commended to our lips, at the hands of our enemies.

Law and Order.

Unless something is promptly done to arrest, by the strong arm of law, the irregularities and outlaws which are nightly occurring in this city, there will be bloodshed and probably conflagration. The Sheriff of the District should be here with his posse comitatus. Where is he? A timely force of constables, under an efficient head, will prevent the catastrophe which we have every reason to apprehend; and unless proper steps are taken for prevention, the cure will be difficult, if not impossible. The evil will only be arrested then by some sharp and sudden practice, by some outraged citizen, protecting his home and family, his life and chattels. We must that, with the Governor himself present in the capital, with the Mayor and Council still at the post of duty, the stern resolution of law will manifest itself in sufficient strength to enforce the reign of sobriety and order.

The musical concert mentioned in a late issue of this paper, as given by two native ladies of Charleston in that place, was correctly reported, with one misqualification. They are natives of that unhappy city, and of well-known and honored families, but it was with sad hearts, and under coercive necessities that these sweet singers of our Israel in exile, tuned their harps in the presence of their conquerors. Their hearts were unattuned to their music, but these they had to keep down, in obedience to the calls of hunger from suffering children, and the pressure of a very various need, to which they must make answer, or perish. We have no doubt that their hearts sank even as their voices rose, and though the tears may not have fallen from their eyes, in the presence of their foreign masters, the fountains of grief were all the while overflowing in their souls.

Local Items.

The office of the *Columbia Phoenix* is on Gates street, second door from Plain.

ENGLISH PEAS.—We are indebted to Mr. John P. Williams for a mess of very fine English peas, for which he will accept our thanks.

We laugh heartily to see a whole flock of sheep jump because one does so. Perhaps superior beings laugh heartily at us for exactly the same reason.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

HEADQUARTERS, COLUMBIA, May 3, 1865.
To the People of the State of South Carolina.
It is my duty to announce to you the following telegram, which I have just received,

and which, with the accompanying papers, will be received and read with profound interest:

CHARLESTON, N. C., April 30.
Forwarded from Chester May 1, 1865.
His Excellency Gen. A. G. Magrath:

The disaster in Virginia, the capture by the enemy of all our workshops for the preparation of ammunition and repairing of arms; the impossibility of recruiting our little army, opposed by ten times its number; of supplying it except by robbing our own citizens, destroyed all hopes of successful war. I have, therefore, made a military convention with Gen. Sherman to terminate hostilities in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. I made this convention to spare the blood of the gallant little army committed to me; to prevent farther suffering of our people by the devastation and ruin inevitable from the marches of invading armies, and to avoid the crime of waging hopeless war.

(Signed,) J. E. JOHNSTON, General.

Subsequently to the receipt of this telegram from Gen. Johnston, I have received the following letter from Gen. Lovell, commanding in the State of South Carolina:

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT SOUTH CAROLINA,
Columbia, May 3, 1865.
To His Excellency A. G. Magrath, Governor,
State of South Carolina.

Sir: When I assumed command of the Confederate forces in this State, in April last, under the orders of Gen. J. E. Johnston, the effective troops at my disposal to repel the advance of the enemy into the State were only two small brigades of cavalry and some few scattered companies, numbering in the aggregate less than twelve hundred (1,200) effectives, and entirely inadequate for the protection of the State.

Since then, military reverses have rendered it necessary, in the judgment of Gen. Johnston, for him to enter into a convention with the enemy, of which I enclose you a copy. The effect of this action has been to break up and completely disorganize the few troops which were at my command; so that now, instead of being a protecting force to the State, they have, in fact, become, in many instances, bodies of marauders, dangerous to its citizens.

As soon as I was advised by Gen. Johnston of the terms of the agreement made between himself and Gen. Sherman, I telegraphed him to know if he was acting under the authority and with the approbation of the Government, and received from him a reply that "he knew of no Government." After every possible effort here, I have been unable to ascertain the locality of the Government, and consequently have no instructions from the Department as to what action I should take upon the convention made by Gen. Johnston.

The disorganization and distarding of the few troops which were in this State, leaves me utterly without the means in power to make any military movement. I have only a portion of my staff; the transportation and supplies of the quartermaster and commissary departments have been violently seized, and there is no power to resist such acts—in fact, there is nothing left in the State necessary for effective military organization.

Under these circumstances, it becomes, in my judgment, my duty promptly to inform you of my inability to protect the people of this State or their property from violence or aggression from any source whatever, and to suggest to you, as the Chief Executive of this State, to take such steps in that regard and to effect that purpose as to you, and the other civil authorities of the State, may seem most proper and expedient.

Hearing to day of your arrival here, I hasten to communicate to you the above situation of affairs. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
M. JOHNSON.

Maj. Gen. Commanding District S. C.

The announcement thus made officially to